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Ezra Taft Benson, a religious leader, made this statement on education, "Let us never lose sight of the fact that education is a preparation for life... If we lose sight of that... we shall have lost far more than we could possibly gain." According to Benson, education is more than textbooks; in fact, it surpasses that by providing one with tools to maneuver successfully through life. While high school graduate rates peak at approximately 75%, the dropout epidemic remains at a high average of 25% (Johnston). Unfortunately, the issue is intricate; there are different factors that influence one to drop out and not every solution works for each case. Nonetheless, there are solutions for this convoluted dilemma.

Furthermore, students drop out of High school for an array of reasons whether it be economic, social, academic, or personal. For those students whose schedules don't comply with school hours, some campuses offer night classes ("*Reduce...*"). With this option, students experience smaller class sizes and more personal instruction while fulfilling criteria to graduate. By providing a more personalized route to earning a diploma, educators will demonstrate, through their actions, the importance of graduating. Regrettably, at-risk students are belatedly detected; thus, making the time to correct the issue limited. In fact, a poll of dropout students commented that they felt unprepared for high school curriculum (Johnston). If more emphasis is placed on academic assistance in elementary schools, then it's more likely for students to feel better prepared for higher curricula; therefore, elementary schools should begin to provide more scholastic programs for students to ensure their comprehension and abilities. By partnering with surrounding primary schools, high schools can increase awareness of high risk students and thwart the dilemma before it's too late. These solutions are only a few out of many unique and effective ones, however, both serve a purpose of improving the students' education.

For students that are considering dropping out of school, it's important to highlight the effects graduating has upon one's future. Furthermore, those who graduate have been proven to have higher wages (Johnston). Monetarily, there are many reasons to remain in school, but a high school diploma opens different opportunities for one's future. Also, parents need to be included in their child's education. With households that disregard education, the student may feel unmotivated to excel in school (Johnston). By engaging the parents in the student's learning, the parents may begin to feel more responsible for their child's success. Education is taken for granted; it's at our disposal and offered universally in America. Unlike neighboring countries where one out of three children obtain an education, every American has the privilege of receiving an education ("*Education...*"). As more students forfeit their education in the U.S., children are sacrificing everything they have to get schooling.

Although the issue with dropouts is complex, its solution isn't impossible. Fortunately, many educators value their students' education and will work hard to help students succeed. Education's influence reaches farther than just the classroom, it affects day-to-day life.

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